

## ViSiCAST Milestone M5-11: Prototype Text-to-Sign-Animation

<b>Project Number:</b>	IST-1999-10500
<b>Project Title:</b>	ViSiCAST (Virtual Signing: Capture, Animation, Storage and Transmission)
<b>Deliverable Type:</b>	Milestone Report

<b>Deliverable Number:</b>	M5-11
<b>Contractual Date of Delivery:</b>	February 2002
<b>Actual Date of Delivery:</b>	October 2002
<b>Title of Deliverable:</b>	Prototype Text-to-Sign-Animation (Integration)
<b>Work-Package contributing to the Deliverable:</b>	Workpackage 5 (Language and Notation)
<b>Nature of the Deliverable:</b>	Technology (Software on Project Archive)
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### Description:

This milestone marks the first prototype of a complete processing system which takes Natural Language (NL) text as input and from it generates a corresponding Signing Animation, presented by the on-screen signing avatar. This is achieved through the integration of technology from WP4 – specifically D4-2 (*SiGML Notation Avatar Software Driver*) – and D5-3 – (*Prototype English Text-to-SiGML Translator*).

These two components have in fact been successfully integrated since the time of delivery of D4-2 (January 2002) – but, as noted in the Report accompanying that deliverable, the avatar software did not at that time provide an interface allowing accurate control of animation timing (this is a technical limitation rather than one easily perceptible to the naked eye of a human viewer), and it was decided to delay the present milestone, M5-11, until this technical limitation had been overcome.

In the event, it was subsequently decided to deal with this issue in the next major upgrade of the avatar software, *Mask 2*. The first integrated version of this upgraded avatar software – that is, a version integrated into a form with similar functionality to that of D4-2 – has been delivered to the project in the form of the *MaskTNG Initial Prototype Software*, lodged on the ViSiCAST project archive at UEA on 2002-10-10. W.e.f. this date, therefore, milestone M5-10 has been passed.